

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above-identified application and stand rejected. Applicants, having amended the claims, respectfully request reconsideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 10-12, and 20 stand rejected under §103(a) as unpatentable over Japan 58-109159 (Japan '159). Among other things, the examiner notes:

As for the component being a semiconductor process element, the same is deemed to be a statement of intent to use/preamble and has not been afforded the weight of a limitation in that the body of the claim fails to give life and meaning to said intended use/preamble.

(Office action, page 2.) In response to this statement, applicants have amended claim 1 such that the semiconductor process equipment, and an acid solution for removing contaminants from the equipment, are recited in the body of the claim in a manner that breaths life and meaning into the claim. The rejection of claim 1 should therefore be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7, 10-12, and 20 depend from claim 1, and consequently distinguish Japan '159 for at least the same reasons claim 1 distinguishes. Also, with reference to claim 11, the recited "pommel" is "adapted to cover the receptacle." This aspect of claim 11 does not appear to be taught or suggested in Japan '159 or the other references.

Claim Objections

The examiner objected to claims 8, 9, and 13-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but remarked that those claims would be allowable if written in independent form to include the limitation of the base and intervening claims.

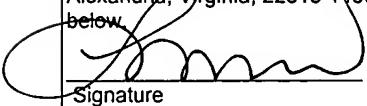
Claims 8, 9, and 13-19 are so amended, and are consequently believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 21-26. Claim 21 depends from claim 16, which the examiner has deemed allowable, and is consequently believed to be itself allowable. Claim 22 recites a cleaning bench with two receptacles, each with shapes similar to respective components to be cleaned. These aspects of claim 22 are similar to language of allowed claims 8 and 13, and claim 22 is likewise considered to be allowable. The remaining new claims 23-26 depend from claim 22, and are consequently allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

Pending claims 1-36 are in condition for allowance; accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance. If the Examiner's next action is other than the allowance of the pending claims, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' representative at (925) 621-2113.

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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is mailed via first class mail to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450 on the date indicated below. | |
|  | 8/24/04 Date of Signature |
| Signature | Date of Signature |
| Printed Name: Laurie Moreno | |

Respectfully submitted,


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